



The QUARAE



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Prez Says.....

IT IS NOW OFFICIALLY SUMMER AND JULY IS HERE ALREADY. SO FAR IT HAS BEEN TOO HOT FOR ME EXCEPT FOR FIELD DAY WEEKEND. THE WEATHER WAS PERFECT.

THIS YEAR I HAD PLENTY OF HELP FOR SETUP ON FRIDAY AFTERNOON. WE GOT THE ANTENNAS UP, THE TENT SET UP AND THE REFRIGERATOR STOCKED SO WE WERE GOOD TO GO. SATURDAY MORNING OUR OUT OF TOWN VISITOR STEVE WD0WVI STOPPED BY AND HELPED ME MAKE THE FINAL PREPARATIONS SO BY 2PM WE WERE READY TO HAVE SOME FUN.

AT 2PM THE EVENT STARTED AND WE HAD ALL FOUR TRANSMITTERS IN OPERATION. 10M WAS DEAD BUT 15M, 20M AND 40M WERE STARTING OFF GOOD AND 80M CAME AROUND A LITTLE LATER IN THE DAY. AT 5:30PM WE TOOK A SUPPER BREAK FOR SOME SMITTY'S HOT DOGS AND JACKIE SWEET'S WORLD FAMOUS MACARONI SALAD.

WE HAD 21 FOLKS SIGN MY FIELD DAY ROSTER AND A LOT OF THEM WERE OPERATING OR LOGGING. WE HAD TWO GUYS FROM THE WEST COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT GROUP VISIT WHICH GAVE US 100 BONUS POINTS ADDED TO OUR SCORE. THEY WERE IMPRESSED WITH THE FD OPERATION AND THE CLUBHOUSE SET UP.

ROY WA3UTN, MATT KB3CAT AND I WERE THERE OPERATING ALL NIGHT MAINLY ON 40M AND 80M. WE KEPT THE COFFEE POT GOING FOR ALL 24 HOURS SO THAT HELPED KEEP US AWAKE.

I HAVE JUST FINISHED WITH THE PAPER WORK FOR THE FD RESULTS WHICH I SENT TO THE ARRL. HERE ARE THE FINAL RESULTS:

80M PHONE SSB QSO'S - 287
40M PHONE SSB QSO'S - 171
40M CW QSO'S - 1
20M PHONE SSB QSO'S - 148
15M PHONE SSB QSO'S - 121

TOTAL 728 QSO'S FOR 1458 POINTS
WITH 500 BONUS POINTS OUR TOTAL SCORE THIS YEAR IS 1958.

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL THE FOLKS THAT CAME OUT TO OUR SITE THIS YEAR TO HELP SET UP, OPERATE, LOG OR JUST VISIT. I WAS MOST IMPRESSED.

THANKS & 73,
DOUG AD4UL

April General Meeting Minutes

I am very sorry I didn't get this in the last QUA_RAE. I completely forgot it If any one is to blame it is me Ed.

A Regular meeting of the Radio Association of Erie (RAE) was held on April 5th 2012 at the Erie Chapter of the American Red Cross. The president was absent and secretary was present. A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order by vice-chair Terry Nemitz at 1910.

Board of Directors; none

New Hams; none

Guests; Jenniffer Estrada WP4NYQ

Silent Keys; none

Secretary report; motion made by Adam Kernohan KB3THU and seconded by George Younkin N3SRF to accept as printed. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report; used balance as of March 27,



**Radio Association of Erie
Club Meeting – Thursday
July 5 at the club house
at the end of Wagner Rd.**

6:30 Hot dogs

7:00 PM- General Meeting

**Program: Video Elecraft radio and a clip
from Smoke & Solder.**

2012. 99 members. Budget was reviewed. Insurance bill is upcoming. A motion was made by John Lindvay WB3IFD to accept. Seconded by Bob Fuller N3LBI. Motion carried.

Membership; in treasurer's report

Repeater committee; Matt Fuller KB3CAT was absent. Lis N3NKKV was going to make changes to the club repeater. Public service; 29 April 2012 signup sheet for the march of Dimes. McDonald's at 1030. Official race time is 1300.

Program; Richard Eisenberg WH6KQ 17AUG will be the small boat festival on the bayfront. It will have 50-60 cardboard boats from all over the country. Coax is needed for a permanent installation. John Lis will handle the printing and mailing of the QSO cards. Time will be from 1000 until 2000. Two operators at a time will be needed.

Cleanup; John Lindvay WB3IFD will coordinate the clubhouse cleanup. Breakfast, shutters, antennas swr check, and other cleaning. Set up for the rookie roundup.

Website; hacked due to lack of security, part is torn down for now.

Newsletter; posted and printed for those without email.

Hamfest; Corry breakfast and Ripley Hamfest

Field day; participation was down – needs to increase

Old business; none

Education; none. WWA is starting a General Class soon.

Publicity; Lis N3NKKV to give a report in May on how he is going to increase publicity.

Good of the Order; W1AW is asking for money to get a generator and an antenna.

The 50-50 was won by Gerald McCracken KA6VPZ

Motion made by Adam Kernohan KB3THU and seconded by Bob Fuller N3LBI to adjourn.

Accepted and carried at 2018

June General Meeting Minutes

A regular membership meeting of the Radio Association of Erie (RAE) was held on June 7th, 2012 at the Wagner Road Clubhouse in McKean PA. President Doug Sweet AD4UL and secretary Adam Kernohan KB3THU were present. A quorum present the meeting was called to order at 1900.

Presentation – Dayton 2008

Meeting agenda started at 1948. Guests Steve Schroeder WD0DVI. Silent Keys none.

Secretary's report – motion made by KB3THU to accept the minutes as published. It was seconded and approved, motion passed.

Treasurers' report – N3SRF has one outstanding check for the PA QSO Party. AD4UL was going to email them and inquire. Electric bill was paid. Check cut for the Endowment Fund. Deposit made from 50/50 drawings.

Board – There wasn't enough attendance for a quorum, so no business was discussed although different ideas were shared.

Membership stands at 103.

Repeaters – KB3THU reported that things are finally getting tied up and should be completed by the end of the month.

Public Service. Events coming up this month are the Edinboro Triathlon and the MS Bike Ride

WB3IFD editor of newsletter was absent from meeting.

Clubhouse – Gene is to handle the shutters. The 40 meter dipole came down in a windstorm and there was an animal building a nest in the power line drop drip loop. It was removed and was unoccupied.

Field Day- W3GV 4A WPA will start at 1400Z Saturday, the 23rd. Setup will start at 1400Z Friday, the 22nd. Please come out and participate.

Good of the Order- N3LBI is going to help with some of the material from the Don Kelley estate. Ham equipment will become available for sale soon.

New Business- QSL cards for the special event were shown. Thought to be a bit expensive. John Lis was going to get more estimates. Motion made by Joe Ponchak KA3CPV to buy a table at the Wattsburg Hamfest. It was seconded and approved. Motion carried.

50/50 was won by Steve Schroeder WD0DVI.

Meeting adjourned at 2040Z.

Erie's Relco System

I received the following email from Leslie Milks after enquiring about Relco and his dad's role in it

"Dear John,

Thanks for asking. Please pass my greetings along to the amateur radio operators in the Erie area.

Yes, my dad, Ken Milks, W3MED, was very involved in the Rad-O-Lite development. He served as the chief designer of the system.

The story goes back to the 1950s. Televison had come to Erie in 1948 with WICU channel 12. Dad had worked at the Stromburg-Carlson plant, which I believe was in Erie at the time, and had been involved in the fabrication of the first TV receivers. A short time later, he started one of the first TV repair shops in the Erie area, and was quite in demand at the time. People then were completely fascinated by TV. If their sets needed repair, they would call as late as 11:00 pm to make sure they got on the list for service asap.



Ken Milks W3MED

With a heavy demand for electronic technicians, dad was encouraged to teach night courses for the veterans of WW II to take advantage of training benefits to learn a trade. During this time, he had as a student, one Jack Leshner, who was a very creative soul although not a ham. Jack went on to conceive a system that might be used to control traffic lights via radio. His thinking was sound on the subject, but required advanced radio development to bring it about

In those days, ham operators really had to know their circuitry. Most of the equipment was built from scratch or conversion of military surplus. Dad had a radio-TV shop of his own. He had access to vacuum tubes, workbenches, instruments, tools, components and almost anything else needed from the electronic industry. As a result, he would work on TVs for his bread and butter, but when the work day ended, the 2nd part of his day, the radio design phase, was just getting started. Dad ate drank and slept radio. He was a good C.W. operator, but especially a fabricator and designer of some novel approaches to radio. He also helped maintain marine radios for the fishing fleets of that time. Saturdays his shop was a haven for many of the hams of the day who were having problems getting their home-brew rigs to come around for them. With this in mind, Jack Leshner looked up his former instructor for a hand in developing his system.

The building on the southwest corner of 12th and Myrtle, the second floor, was the home of Rad-O-Lite. Dad had a radio lab set up, and worked inside a copper- screened, Faraday shielded work area. This was to prevent stray radiation from escaping when working on the transmitters. He had obtained a commercial radio operator's license to pursue this part of the development.

It was with considerable effort that Rad-O-Lite obtained clearance from the FCC for a spot in the spectrum. The transmitters were built for operation in the VHF low band, and employed audio subcarriers to differentiate the north-south and east-west traffic corridors. This was in the early 60s, and the transmitters and receivers employed vacuum tube technology. The receivers were unique in their day, as they employed a Compactron tube to handle the front end.

The transmitters, of course, were located on ambulances, fire trucks, and police vehicles. The receivers were located in the traffic control boxes on the poles. When a signal was received, they basically took over control of the traffic light from its state-mandated control box when the transmitter got within range, and released it when the vehicle got far enough down the corridor. The receiver had to return the traffic signal to its exact state before the emergency vehicle approached. I could be wrong, but I believe the traffic controllers were a cam-operated device at that time.

The transmitters were permitted a one watt power limit. The range was a few blocks, enough to turn the traffic light green for the approaching vehicle and turn red for cross traffic. This provided for the maximum safety of ambulances and other vehicles to pass quickly to a hospital or other location, and prevented many a collision in an uncontrolled intersection.

In the early stages of development, getting the range worked out was a problem. As a kid, Dad took me with him to the Antenna Specialist Company in Cleveland when the antennas were being worked

up. Arrangements were made to have small whips with a spring base cut to frequency. The emergency vehicles had one, as well as every controlled intersection in the city. Everything seemed fine until they began live tests on the intersections. Some intersections had a range of a half block in one direction and six blocks in the other. Every intersection had an irregular pattern to it. Investigation showed that this resulted from the counterpoising that each intersection offered. This was governed by the cabling and other factors present, which would vary from one installation to the other. This was solved by the development of two short loaded counterpoise rods at the base of the receiver antenna. With these in place, the pattern came around as roughly regular in pick up throughout the city.

Originally, there were only a few corridors that were meant to be developed. These would cover routes to the hospitals and perhaps some east-west corridors to be used for emergency runs. However, the system provided great convenience for police and fire vehicles responding to emergencies. So it eventually spread to intersections all over town. Although the utility of the system is plain for ambulances, etc., it was even some benefit to the criminal element. For example, if the police found themselves in hot pursuit of a criminal from, say east to west along 12 th street, the police could turn every intersection green ahead of the criminal. Imagine the protection this provided to the criminal, the police, and the public from being slammed into by cross traffic during a police chase.

So, the system was a success in Erie. As a side note, we know about hackers in today's world. This element was also around in the 60s. Various attempts were made at that time by clever people who wanted to beat the system. Wouldn't it be nice to have something in your own car that would let you turn the city traffic lights green as you went down the street? Some thought so. They spent their time doping out the system and coming up with their own transmitter for this purpose. The police would notice traffic lights changing for no

apparent reason. When the system was being properly used, the emergency vehicles all had to radio ahead to let the authorities know that they were about to use a particular corridor. Of course, the bootleggers didn't observe this requirement. So when the lights were changing with no prior announcement, the police knew they had an unauthorized party at large. Keeping an eye out, they were able to stop a vehicle in an emergency corridor with an antenna on the car with no real reason to have it there. It didn't happen often, and those that did it got scooped up quickly.

Well, John, those are the details as seen through the eyes of a very young man in those days. Thanks for allowing me to re-visit those memories. It made the day for me!

73, Les Milks AF4ZO “

Who was the first ham in Erie County?

Craig Hill wrote, “I assume that when you ask who was the oldest Erie ham, you are including SK hams. Dawson Bliley’s call was 8AG. Since calls were issued in alphabetical order, he would have to be the first Erie ham of all the calls you listed. The first 8 call would have been 8AA, and therefore 8AG was very early. Early calls did not include a letter before the number and back then Pennsylvania was in the eighth call area. To prove this maybe you can try to research 8AA, 8AB, 8AC, 8AD, 8AE, and 8AF and if none of these people lived in Erie, then Dawson has to be the earliest.” Life would be so simple if Dawson Bliley’s call was 8AG. I later found out that was incorrect. From a 1927 Callbook I found out his call was 8GU. So the question remains, “Who is the first ham in Erie County? I could find no record of 8AA. In the 1920/1930s, there was no country prefix, the call signs in France were in the 8 range and had two or three letters. Such call signs were used in the famous QSO across the Atlantic Ocean in November 1923, between Leon Deloy 8AB in France, and Scnell 1MO in the US.

Who was 8AC? “After being licensed for several years I found out that two of my relatives were also amateur radio operators. Their calls were 8AC and

W8MWS (My Wondering Signal) both from the Cleveland Ohio area.”⁷³, Don, WA8TWM I found some very old callbooks on Google Books. Edward E. Sly 8QT, 1820 Myrtle was listed running 144 watts in a 1913 edition. Fred F Hultgren 8WR, 710 West 2nd Street running 12 watts was listed in 1915 edition. Both were listed in the 1920 edition. I will try to get more information on them for the next QUA-RAE.

Radio Calendar

July 7th - North Hills ARC hamfest. Location: New location! Parkwood United Presbyterian Church 4289 Mount Royal Blvd. Allison Park, PA 15101 - Talk-in 147.090+. Contact: Cathy Heiles KB3OYS

July 8th - Somerset County Amateur Radio Club – Location: Somerset County Technology Center Talk-in: 147.195+ - VE testing – Large vendors Website: www.k3smt.org

July 10th – Wattsburg Wireless Association General Meeting 7 PM. Hotdogs at 6 PM

July 12th – Union City Radio Club Meeting 7 PM

July 14th, 2012- WWA and Union City Hamfest – Location: Greene Township Municipal Building 9333 Tate Road, Erie PA. Talk-in 146.70 PL 186.2. 7:30 AM to 11 AM www.nw-pa-hamfest.com

July 21st, 2012 – Batavia Hamfest Lancaster Amateur Radio Club- Location: Alexander Fireman Grounds Route 98, Alexander, NY 15405 Contact: Luke Calianno N2GDU at 716-481-5747 luke48@gmail.com <http://larc.hamgate.net> Talk-in: 147.285 PL 141.3 & 147.255 PL 107.2

July 28-1600Z to 29th – 1600Z. New Jersey QSO Party Exchange Serial and NJ county or S/P or "DX" www.njqp.hamshack.info

July 29th 2012 - Portage Amateur Radio Club. Location: Portage County Fairgrounds, State Route 44, Randolph, OH. Talk-in: 145.390-. Contact: Joanne Solak, KJ3O/8 at 330-274-8240 or kj3o@arri.net Website: <http://Hamfair.com>